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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/777,604	02/11/2004	Yao-Ching Stephen Chen	SVL920030096US1/2962P	4627

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SAWYER LAW GROUP LLP
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EXAMINER

PANNALA, SATHYANARAYA R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2164

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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05/02/2008

ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

patent@sawyerlawgroup.com
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Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/777,604

Applicant(s)

CHEN ET AL.

Examiner

Sathyanarayan Pannala

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Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 January 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 9, 17, 26 and 30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 9, 17, 26 and 30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/S5108)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's Amendment filed on 1/17/2008 has been entered with amended claims 1, 9, 17. In this Office Action, claims 1, 9, 17, 26 and 30 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

2. 35 U.S.C. § 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

3. Claims 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101, because the claim is not directed to statutory subject matter. Independent claim 17 deals with simple abstract ideas and considered as software per se. A claim that recites computer program steps that solely calculates a mathematical formula or a computer disk that solely stores a mathematical formula is not directed to the type of subject matter eligible for patent protection. See *Diehr*, 450 US at 186 and *Gottschalk v. Benson*, 409 U.S. 63,71-72(1972).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

5. Claims 1, 9, 17, 26, 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshimura et al. (US Patent 6,882,994) hereinafter Yoshimura, in view of Norcott et al. (US Patent 6,999,977) hereinafter Norcott, in view of Shwartz (US Patent 5,812,840) hereinafter Shwartz and further in view of Applicant Admitted Prior Art (APA).

6. As per independent claims 1, 9, 17, Yoshimura teaches a querying method in which a first data item is obtained from database management system database table in

response to a query request (col. 2, lines 14-17). Yoshimura teaches the claimed, providing a table in the database system, the table including a plurality of rows of data (col. 3, lines 26-28). Yoshimura teaches the claimed, the timestamp column does not appear in the database schema by default and exposes the timestamp value for a given row of data in the table only to a query that calls the timestamp column by name (col. 1, lines 19-25). Yoshimura teaches the claimed, in response to the query, the timestamp column returning the timestamp value to the application for use by the application (col. 1, lines 20-25).

Yoshimura does not explicitly teach hiding a column. However, Shwartz teaches hiding a column of a table (Fig. 1A, D, E, col. 13, lines 37-38). Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the data processing art at the time of the invention, to have combined the teachings of the cited references because Shwartz's teachings would have allowed Yoshimura's method to hide the complexities of SQL from the user, similarly hiding column not useful to users (col. 4, line 10).

Yoshimura does not explicitly teach timestamp column in a table. However, Norcott teaches the claimed, providing a timestamp column in the table in the database system, the hidden timestamp column including a timestamp value for each row of data in the table, the time stamp value indicating a last time a corresponding row of data in the table was modified, (Fig. 1, col. 5, lines 14-18). Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the data processing art at the time of the invention, to have combined the teachings of the cited references because Norcott's teachings would have allowed Yoshimura's method to allow data extraction, transport and loading with

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techniques, which do not require schema changes, are robust and do not suffer from data loss or double counting problems (col. 2, lines 56-59). Further, Norcott teaches the claimed, receiving a query to obtain a timestamp value from the hidden timestamp column, wherein the query calls the timestamp column by name (col. 3, lines 40-42).

AAPA teaches the claimed, the application uses the returned timestamp value for controlling a locking scheme associated with recording data updates in the database system (Paragraph [0003]). Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the data processing art at the time of the invention, to have combined the teachings of the cited references because AARP's teachings would have allowed Yoshimura's method to automatically updating timestamp for database systems (paragraph [0006]).

The above claimed limitation teaches the added limitation, **the application uses value from hidden timestamp column in the table**, the hidden column value can be queried and retrieved or received has been claimed above. The hiding of a column is from user visualization and it can be retrieved by an application using a proper database query.

7. As per dependent claims 26, 30, Yoshimura teaches the claimed, the timestamp value corresponding to a given row of data in the table is automatically updated each time data in the given row has been modified (col. 1, lines 20-25).

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments filed on 1/17/2008 have been fully considered but they are persuasive and details as follows:

a) Applicant argument regarding the rejection of claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. stated as "Applicants respectfully disagrees with the rejection"

In response to Applicant argument, examiner disagrees, because Applicant amended the claim 17 and did not overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 101. Applicant is claiming a system without involving physical devices.

b) Applicant arguing the amended part of the claims and stated as "the application uses the returned timestamp value for controlling locking schema..."

In response to Applicant argument, examiner disagrees, because Applicant added limitation to claims 1, 9 and 17 as Applications commonly use this timestamp column for controlling optimistic locking schemes is taught by the AAPA at paragraph [0003]. By incorporating a proper query the value of a hidden timestamp column for a table can be retrieved.

Conclusion

1. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sathyanarayan Pannala whose telephone number is (571) 272-4115. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 am - 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles Rones can be reached on (571) 272-4085. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Sathyanarayan Pannala/
Primary Examiner

srp
April 21, 2008